

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A retainer for buttressing an element subjected to forces applied substantially in one direction, the retainer comprising:
a support;
a plurality of members extending ~~[from]~~ across the support and integrally formed with the support, each member being spaced apart from the next successive member and defining an abutment surface; and wherein
the abutment surfaces of the plurality of members ~~[defining]~~ define a bearing surface adapted to ~~[engage]~~ retain the structural integrity of the element when the forces are applied.
2. (Currently Amended) The retainer of claim 1 wherein the bearing ~~[surfaces and the element cooperate such that the]~~ surface engages an element subjected to forces applied substantially in one direction and the element defines ~~[adopts]~~ a generally fair contour when the forces are applied.
3. (Currently Amended) The retainer of claim 2 wherein at least one integrally formed ~~[the]~~ member has an aspect ratio greater than 3.
4. (Original) The retainer of claim 2 wherein the support has a surface and the surface is part of the abutment surface.
5. (Currently Amended) The retainer of claim 1 wherein at least one integrally formed ~~[the]~~ member has an aspect ratio greater than 3.
6. (Currently Amended) The retainer of claim ~~[5]~~ 1 wherein at least one integrally formed ~~[the]~~ member has an aerodynamic orientation to the support.

7. (Currently Amended) The retainer of claim 1 wherein the retainer further comprises a housing [~~defines~~] defining a hinge, the hinge defining a first and second part.
8. (Withdrawn)
9. (Withdrawn)
10. (Withdrawn)
11. (Withdrawn)
12. (Withdrawn)
13. (Withdrawn)
14. (Withdrawn)
15. (Withdrawn)
16. (Withdrawn)
17. (Withdrawn)
18. (Withdrawn)
19. (Withdrawn)
20. (Currently Amended) A retainer for buttressing an element subjected to forces applied substantially in one direction, the retainer comprising:
a support having a surface;

at least one member integrally formed with the support and extending from the support, each member defining an abutment surface; and wherein the support defines deflection means adjacent at least one member such that the member can expand and contract independently of the support.

21. (Original) The retainer of claim 20 wherein the surface and the abutment surface align.
22. (Withdrawn)
23. (Withdrawn)
24. (Withdrawn)
25. (New) The retainer of claim 1 further comprising a means for deflection of at least one integrally formed member wherein the at least one member is adapted for expanding and contracting independently of the support.